कंपनियों लगातार कामगारों का शोषण कर रही हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि मैसर्स इंडयोर, मैसर्स एश हैंडलिंग और मैसर्स डिजाइन कंपनी, ईस्ट आफ कैलाश, निकट सावित्री सिनेमा, नई दिल्ली के मालिकों ने अपने कर्मचारियों की सेवाओं का समाप्त कर दिया था;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने ऐसी कम्पनियों को अतिरिक्त हिदायतें दी हैं ताकि कामगारों/कर्मचारियों का शोषण रोका जा सके?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी॰ ए॰ संगमा): (क) से (घ) सरकार को, जब कभी श्रमिकों के शोषण के बारे में शिकायतें प्राप्त होती हैं, तब कानून के अनुसार आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जाती है।

दिल्ली सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि उन इकाइयों जिनके नामों का विशिष्टतः इस प्रश्न के भाग (ख) में उल्लेख किया गया है, के कर्मचारियों की सेवाएं समाप्त किए जाने के बारे में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

Mechanism to ensure relief to Consumers

1890. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers suffer from high price and scarcity in a year of scarcity, whereas in the year of satisfactory supply position these consumers are unable to derive proportionate benefit;

(b) whether Government have enquired into this aspect; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to evolve a mechanism to ensure relief to consumers in times of scarcity and reduced prices in time of abudance or a good crop?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The prices of certain essential commodities have risen essentially due to the gap between their demand and supply in the country. Despite increase in availability of foodgrains, the prices have risen due to increase in output costs which had necessitated higher minimum support price for procuring foodgrains for distribution under PDS and for market intervention to bring down the market prices. The prices of other items have tendency to rise once their input cost increases. The rise in the prices of wage goods also generally causes all other prices to rise after some time lag.

(b) and (c) Apart from taking certain long-term measures for increasing the production of commodities which are in short supply, immediate measures taken by the Government to augment the availability of these items include their imports under OGL and otherwise. Further items like rice, wheat, palmolein, sugar, kerosene and soft coke are distributed through the Public Distribution System at Prices below the open market prices. State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to supply other essentialy commodities like pulses, note books, etc. through fair price shops. Stringent action is being taken against blackmarketeers, hoarders and those including in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, etc. A close watch is being kept on the availability and price levels of essential commodities so as to enable the Government to take timely remedial measures for checking the rise in prices.

Amendment of Apprenticeship Act, 1961

1891. DR. GOPALARAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have amended the Apprentiship Act of 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof with purpose;

(c) whether such an amendment is in the interests of working class people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Apprentices Act 1961 has been amended twice so far, Once in 1973 to include Engineering Graduates & Diploma Holders as Graduate & Technician Apprentices and subsequently in 1986 to include the passed-out students from 10+2 Vocational Stream of education.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) The apprentices get monthly stipend during their training period.

(ii) The apprentices acquire skill for gainful wages or self employment

Keeping in view of the above, the career of wards of working classes get a clear direction for their future development.

Retrenchment of Workers from Rourkela Steel Plant

1892. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers retrenched from Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) the reasons why those workers have been thrown out employment;

(c) whether Government propose to provide them re-employment in those plants; and

(d) if not, the alternative employment scheme thought about retrenched workers of Rourkela Steel Plant in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to information received from the Government of Orissa, no worker in Rourkela Steel Plant has been retrenched.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Unemployment Problem

1893. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of unemployment upto 30th June, 1995 and what is expected increase by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan; State-wise; and

(b) the strategy made by Government to solve the unemployment problem in the country particularly in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) Total unemployment in the country as on 30th June, 1995 has not been estimated. Unemployment as in March 1995 is estimated to be for the order of 18.7 million. The State-wise break-up of this estimate is not available. The principal elements of the employment strategy of the Eighth Plan are a geographically and cropwise diversified agricultural growth, expansion and diversification of the rural non farm sector, promotion of small and decentralised manufacturing sector expansion of infrastructure, housing and health and educational services faster growth of services and informal sector activities and greater flexibility in special employment programmes and their integration with sectoral development programmes. A continuation of the employment strategy of the Eighth Plan in the period 1997-2002 is expected to reduce unemployment to negligible levels by 2002.

Scope of adjudication by Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum

1894. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enlarge the scope of adjudication by the Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum by bringing under its purview disputes arising from health, medical services and share markets, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the high power working committee set up by Government to suggest comprehensive amendments to the Consumer Disputes Redressal Act and of those which have been accepted/not accepted by Government or are still under consideration; and

(d) the number of cases at present pending with the District Consumer Forums (State-wise) and steps taken so far for their early settlement?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) On the recommendations of the Central Consumer Protection Council, the Government had constituted a High Powered Working Group to suggest suitable amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective and purposeful. The Working Group, in its report, has recommended to bring under